



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, at the State Department, announces the nomination of Karen P. Hughes as Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

“The time has come to look anew at our institutions of public diplomacy. We must do much more to confront hateful propaganda, dispel dangerous myths and get out the truth. We must increase our exchanges with the rest of the world. We must work closer than ever with educational institutions, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations and we must encourage our citizens to engage the world, to learn foreign languages, to understand different cultures and to welcome others into their homes. And to be successful we must listen. An important part of telling America’s story is learning the stories of others. Our interaction with the rest of the world must not be a monologue. It must be a conversation. And as we engage in this conversation, America must remain open to visitors and workers and students from around the world. While we must never compromise our security, we must never close ourselves to the rest of the world. We need to look at the international community today and see the importance of openness.”

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

Washington, DC, March 14, 2005, announcing the nomination of Karen P. Hughes as Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

“I believe there is no more important challenge for our future than the urgent need to foster greater understanding, more respect and a sense of common interests and common ideals among Americans and people of different countries, cultures and faiths throughout the world. The mission of public diplomacy is to engage, inform, and help others understand our policies, actions and values—but I am mindful that before we seek to be understood, we must first work to understand.... If I had the opportunity to say just one thing to people throughout the world, it would be: I am eager to listen. I want to learn more about you and your lives, what you believe, what you fear, what you dream, what you value most.... I plan to travel and reach out to both citizens and leaders of other countries, and I plan to mobilize our government to do more listening. And as I travel, I am eager to share the story of the goodness of the American people. Our country, while far from perfect, has been a tremendous force for good, liberating millions and bringing help and hope to countless lives.”

Karen P. Hughes

Testimony at her confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Washington, DC, July 22, 2005